

Description of a new Genus and Species of Terrestrial Isopoda from British Guiana. By WALTER E. COLLINGE, M.Sc., F.L.S., F.E.S., Research Fellow of the University of St. Andrews.

(PLATE 50.)

[Read 4th March, 1915.]

THE Terrestrial Isopoda of the South American continent have as yet received very little attention, although one cannot help thinking that there is a large and interesting fauna awaiting investigation. From different parts, species have been described by Miers (1), Budde-Lund (2), Dollfus (3, 4, 5, 6), and Richardson (7), but in all probability these constitute only a very small part of the actual indigenous fauna.

Some few months ago Mr. G. E. Bodkin, the Government Economic Biologist at Georgetown, Demerara, British Guiana, very kindly forwarded to me for identification a number of specimens collected beneath the bark of trees in the Botanic Gardens, Georgetown. Two of the specimens (both imperfect) are referable to the cosmopolitan species *Porcellionides pruinus* (Brandt), whilst the remaining ones, in various stages of growth, belong to a new genus and species here described under the name of *Calycuoniscus bodkini*.

CALYCUONISCUS, gen. nov.

Body oblong-oval, flattened; metasome a little narrower than the mesosome, the cephalon and segments covered with peculiar cup-shaped or calyx-like organs, and the appendages marked with lattice-work and scale-like ornamentation. Cephalon with well-developed median and lateral lobes, the former being prolonged forwards and slightly downwards; epistoma raised in the median line, at each side of which is a deep concavity. Antennæ of medium length with 3-jointed flagellum, divisions subequal. Uropoda extending beyond telson, globose, basal plate with raised anterior margin; exopodite short and thick, outer border almost straight; endopodite same length as exopodite, both setaceous with terminal hair-like setæ. Telson triangular with posterior margin bluntly rounded.

Affinity doubtful.

CALYCUONISCUS BODKINI, sp. nov.

Body (fig. 1) oblong-oval, flattened; metasome a little narrower than the mesosome, the segments of both, and also the cephalon, covered with peculiar

cup-shaped organs (fig. 2). Appendages marked with lattice-work-like ornamentation (fig. 9). Cephalon (figs. 3 & 4) convex above and with numerous cup-shaped organs, median and lateral lobes conspicuous; epistoma raised in the median line with two lateral concavities. Eyes prominent, situated dorso-laterally almost above the cup-shaped lateral lobes of the cephalon. Antennulæ 3-jointed. Antennæ (fig. 5) of medium length, the 5th joint being the longest; flagellum 3-jointed, with subequal divisions and terminal style. 1st maxillæ (fig. 6), outer lobe terminating in four large curved spines and four small ones with bifid terminations. The segments of the mesosome are somewhat flattened, the lateral plates of the 1st partly surround the cephalon, all have their posterior angles slightly produced and overlap one another, fringed with numerous cup-shaped organs. Maxillipedes (fig. 7) with the outer palp terminating in a large multispinous process and two smaller inner spines with broad bases; the inner palp has two marginal tooth-like spines. Thoracic appendages (fig. 8) comparatively short, ornamentation strongly marked, densely covered with setæ and spines, and terminating in strong claw. Uropoda (figs. 10 & 11) somewhat globose, basal plate with anteriorly raised margin, external antero-lateral margin produced inwards slightly; exopodite short and thick, outer border almost straight; endopodite same length as exopodite, articulating beneath the anterior raised margin of the basal plate, both setaceous and with terminal hair-like setæ. Telson (fig. 12) triangular with posterior margin bluntly rounded. Length 2.8 mm. Colour (in alcohol) horny-brown with darker lateral portions or with dark median line.

Habitat. Beneath the bark of trees, Botanic Gardens, Georgetown, Demerara, British Guiana.

Type. In collection of W. E. C.

This species is of special interest, in that it possesses a very peculiar series of chitinous organs on the body-segments and cephalon. In the spirit-preserved examples they do not exhibit any structure beyond that shown in figure 2, viz., a cup-shaped organ with a tube-like body in the centre. Dollfus (4) has figured some similar bodies on the telson of *Platyarthrus* (?) *simoni*, Dollfus, from Venezuela, and Budde-Lund (8) describes and figures very similar ones on the telson and metasome of another Venezuelan species, *Trichorhina quisquiliarum* (B.-L.). His brief description is as follows:—"margo posterior omnium segmentorum serie papillarum minutissimarum ornatus."

The form of the cephalon is unlike that in any other genus I am acquainted with, the eyes being very prominent and situated almost above the cup-shaped lateral lobes, whilst the median lobe is prolonged forwards and slightly downwards. The two lateral concavities on the epistoma are also characteristic.

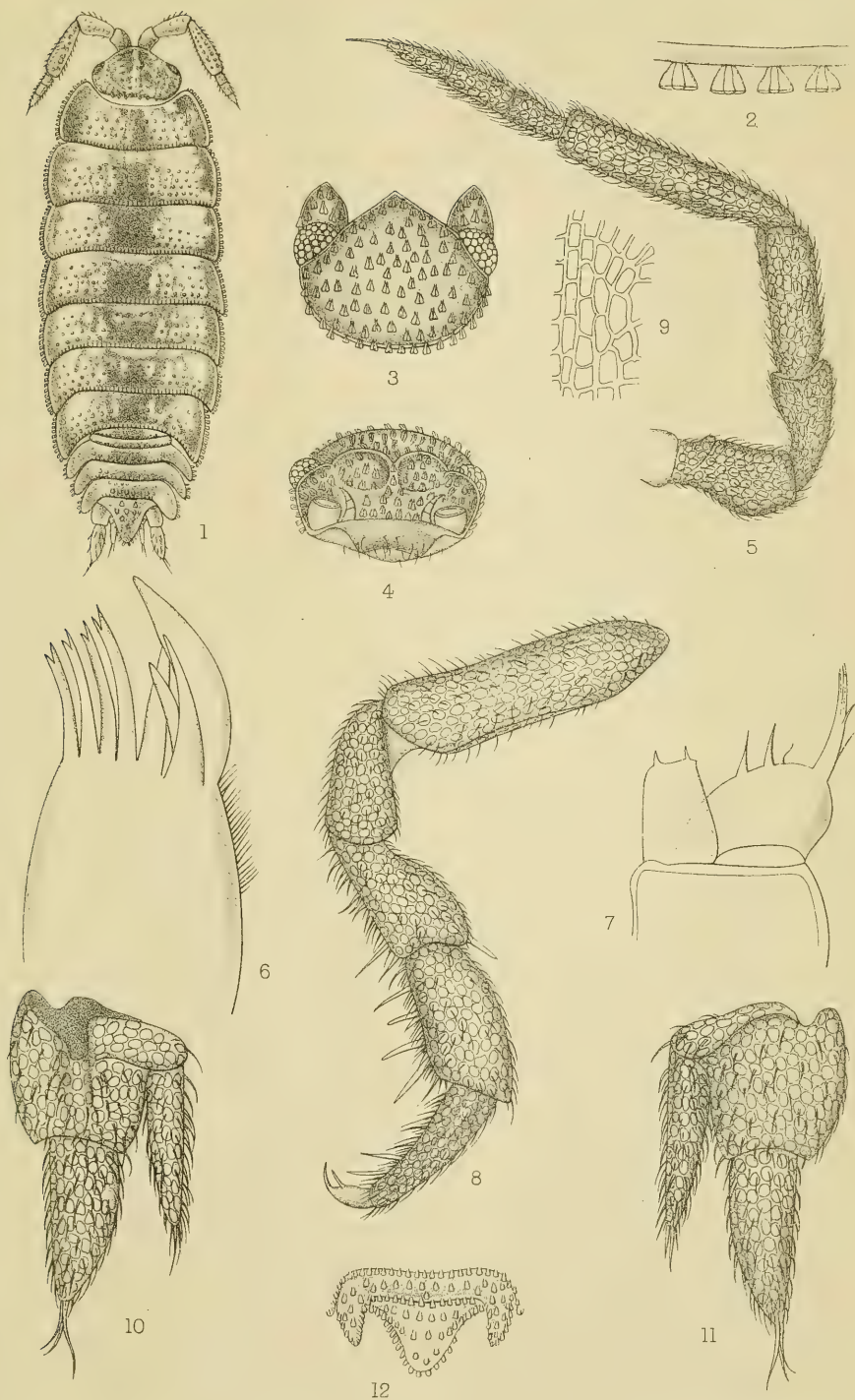


Fig. 1 E. Wilson
Figs. 2-12 E.W.E. & W.E.C. del.

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ISOPOD FROM GUIANA

In addition to the above-mentioned cup-shaped organs, the whole of the body and the appendages are marked with a scale-like or lattice-work ornamentation. This is particularly prominent on the ischiopodite of the thoracic appendages (fig. 9).

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EXPLANATION OF PLATE 50.

Calyconiscus bodkini, gen. et sp. n.

Fig. 1. Dorsal view. $\times 24$.

2. Cup-shaped bodies on the cephalon and body-segments.
3. Dorsal view of the cephalon, tilted upwards anteriorly to show the median and lateral lobes. Colour-markings not shown.
4. Anterior view of the cephalon.
5. Antenna.
6. Terminal portion of the outer lobe of the 1st maxilla.
7. Terminal portion of the right maxillipede.
8. Second thoracic appendage.
9. Pattern of ornamentation on the ischiopodite of the 2nd thoracic appendage.
10. Right uropod, ventral surface.
11. " " dorsal surface.
12. Telson and last metasomatic segment.